



# SHELTER-IN-PLACE

How to Survive Certain Disasters

Utah

Department of Public Safety  
Division of Emergency Management

✓ Make a Plan ✓ Get a Kit ✓ Be Informed ✓ Get Involved





# Learn to Survive!

If you don't survive the disaster, the rest of your plans don't really matter.

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# How to Survive

- Protective Actions!
- Steps to take to protect yourself during a threat or hazard
- What are they?



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# Primary Protective Action

- When you know a danger or threat hazard is coming your way what's the best thing to do?
- Get out of its way! **Evacuate!**
- Primary protective action for wildfire, floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, **hazardous materials**, etc.



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# Other Protective Actions

- FEMA and other emergency agencies recognize two different but similar protective actions:
- Sheltering is simply going inside a solid structure or building; staying home.
- Sheltering-in-Place is specifically for hazardous materials incidents where harmful materials are released into the air.

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# Sheltering vs Sheltering-In-Place

## Sheltering:

- Go indoors
- Protection from tornado, lightning, hail, wind, cold, etc.
- Need many supplies
- Resume normal activity

## Sheltering-in-Place:

- Go into single room in your home, sealed
- Protection from hazardous materials
- Need limited supplies, radio
- Ventilate home

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# SIP Example

- **Salt Lake City, Utah.** In March 2005, a mixture of approximately 6,500 gallons of phosphoric, sulfuric, acetic, and hydrofluoric acids corroded the inside of a stationary railcar and began leaking, causing an orange vapor cloud in Salt Lake City, Utah (2000 population: 181,743). The corrosion was attributed to improper combination of the acids because of human error. A member of the general public approximately 0.25 mile away experienced respiratory irritation and was treated on the scene. Approximately 8,000 persons downwind from the release were evacuated for 5 hours, and a shelter-in-place order was issued for a five-block area near the evacuation zone. - CDC

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# Background

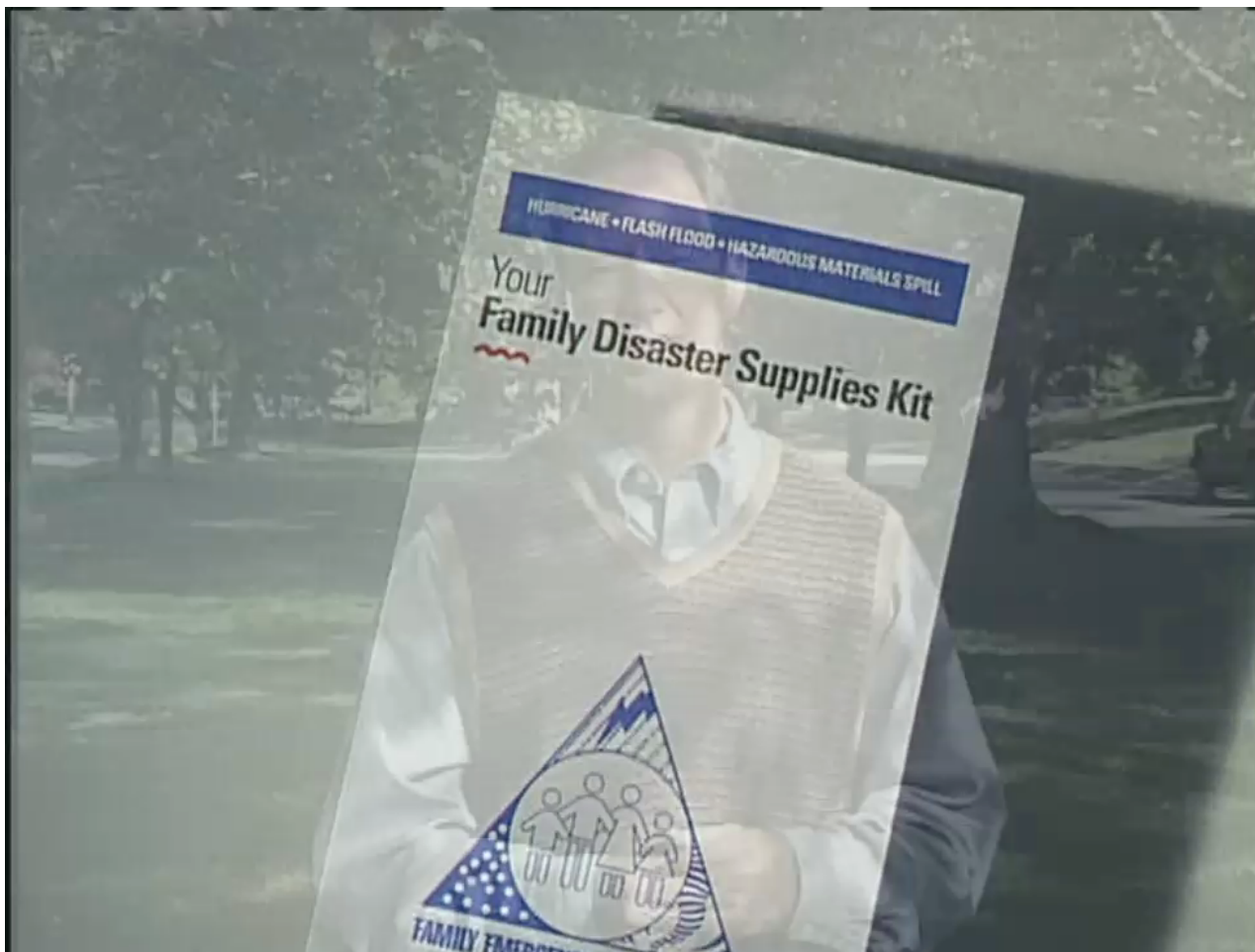
- Further developed by the US Army for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)
- CSEPP produced a SIP Video



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# Shelter-in-Place Video



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# Shelter-in-Place Steps

- 1. Go inside
- 2. Close doors, windows, fireplace damper
- 3. Turn off HVAC systems
- 4. Take family into preselected shelter room
- 5. Seal doors, windows, vents, and other openings with pre-cut and labeled plastic and duct tape
- 6. Turn on battery-operated, AM/FM radio
- 7. Leave your shelter room when instructed

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# SIP



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# Shelter-in-Place Preparation

- Pre-select shelter room: above ground, center most room, large enough for family members
- Assemble Shelter-in-Place Kit, include:
  - Pre-cut plastic to cover windows, doors, vents, other openings; label plastic pieces
  - Duct tape, scissors
  - Battery-operated, AM/FM radio
  - Water bottles, granola bars or other food

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# When to Shelter-in-Place

- When instructed to do so by local law enforcement, fire officials, emergency management or other civil authority
- In response to hazardous materials incidents
- If you're instructed to evacuate, but cannot

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# Notification

- Shelter-in-Place order may come through established public warning systems:
  - EAS
  - WEA
  - Sirens
- SIP order may more likely come through:
  - Route Alerting (law enforcement officers or firefighters using PA systems in cars or knocking on doors)



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# When to End SIP

- SIP requires two main actions: entering shelter and exiting shelter
- Duration: A matter of hours, not days
- As soon as the leak is contained or the spill is cleaned up or the wind changes directions, the SIP order may be lifted
- Listen to your radio (EAS)
- Be prepared to evacuate or ventilate your home

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# Sheltering

- One of the oldest protective actions
- When early man was faced with hazardous weather he sought shelter
- Protective action for wind, cold, rain, snow, hail, blizzards, tornados, lightning, etc.
- **Sheltering Steps:**
  - 1. Simply go indoors
  - 2. In some cases, stay away from windows
  - 3. For tornados, go to basement or lowest point possible

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# Are You Ready?

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